TELEGRAMS:
"ALLEDORA, WESTRAND,
LONDON."

Feb 3
1919

1917 CLUB
4, GERRARD STREET, W. 1.

Dearest,

I have got a temporary h-parlourmaid who will come on Wednesday. ~~She~~ Her name is Phoebe Crane, & she wants £1 a week, & her railway fares. Can you manage that some one should meet her at Glynde on Wednesday at 12.8 She seemed amiable, though rather foolish looking. I saw 3 characters; all said she was perfectly honest, clean, sober, & two

She said she could not possibly finish her— way up, so I promised some one wd. be at Glynde. Age about 35 prominent brown eyes teeth one front missing

said she was very obliging — she thinks that she would not go to Church: Anyhow I suppose she will do for a time. though the expense seems fearful. Abbey charged 12/6 also for his fee: She said she liked the country. I told her she would have no waiting. She was anxious not to have to look after children. I am seeing Liz tomorrow, & may find out some more about Budge & her doings from her. You must have 2 proper people, & I shall go on till I get them. Do think of coming to Hogarth.

V.W.

HAMILL 12/29/69

She said she could not possibly find her way up, so I promised some one wd. be at Glynde. Age about 35 prominent brown eyes one front tooth missing

said she was very obliging — she
thinks that she would not go to
Church: . Anyhow I suppose she
will do for a time. though
NYPL
the expense seems fearful.
Abbey charged 12/6 also for
his fee: She said she liked
the country: I told her she would
have no waiting. She was
anxious not to have to look
after children. I am seeing
Liz tomorrow, & may find out
some more about Budge & her
doings from her. You must
have 2 proper people, & I shall
go on till I get them. Do think
of coming to Hogarth. V.W.

HAMILL 12/29/69

8 Feb 1919

29

Saturday.

Dearest

I got your letter last night. Faith rang up & said both her women had fallen through. So I telegraphed to Phoebe Crane this morning, to ask her to go to you this evening & telephoned at the same time to the Registry. They said she was disengaged yesterday, & thought she could certainly go. but might be out for the day.

I've had no wire from her, & its now 6-30, so I suppose she was out (I sent her a reply paid) I left orders (I need to be out) that Nelly was to wire to you; but apparently she hasn't done so. I expect I shall hear from Crane on Monday. Anyhow I will wire then & say whats happening. &

try to provide some one on Monday. I didn't mean that
I didn't think much of Crane; she seemed
rather nice, & wrote me a very polite
letter. Also, Emily's character wasn't
Albery's fault as they said they knew
nothing, but gave me the woman's
name she'd worked for; whom we saw—
I've seen 3 characters of Crane — &
all good. The strike cuts us off from
everywhere except Waterloo, so I couldn't
go to Mrs ~~Hunt~~, ~~so~~ Lucas, who's not
~~so~~ on the telephone. I'm fearfully
sorry not to have got Crane to go today
I'll write again — very harried to
get the post now.

VW.

HAMILL 12/22/69

Feb 9
1919

Sunday.

Dearest,

Things were in such a muddle yesterday that I'm afraid I wrote rather an incoherent letter. The difficulty was that having waited for an answer to the telegram it became too late to telegraph to you — I would have arranged that Nelly was to catch the 5.20 anyhow, but she had a bad cold & was very anxious not to go till Monday. Also it seemed absurd to send her late on Saturday if Crane were coming on Monday. She has shown some signs too of getting into one of her usual states — thinking that you would want her to stay over the week & that she could not resist you — so I was alarmed lest she might in the end refuse — as Leonard thought and still thinks likely — to go at all. However, I've just spoken to her, & she is quite decided to go tomorrow if Crane fails. Her cold is much better & she appears very cheerful. I'm now writing to Crane, & telling her to ring me up tomorrow morning, so as to allow time for wiring to you. I'm fearfully sorry that you've had no one this week end, but anyhow you will have one or the other tomorrow — before you get this I suppose. Faith was anxious for me to explain that though she got into touch with two possibilities, both failed. I dont think she much wants to send Flossy, as there seem to be difficulties with

the other servant. If I have a week, however, I'm sure I
could get someone, should Crane fail. Nelly heard of someone
from the Registry here who sounded promising; & if the
Strike is over, it will be easy to go to places in London.
All last week we were practically cut off — we could
get to Waterloo, but the buses are so crammed in
London that it means walking everywhere.

Mr. Abbey, by the way, was emphatic that C. is a most
respectable woman; & to do him justice I can't remember
that either Nessie or I enquired much as to Emily's
character in our anxiety to get someone that day.
Crane's ~~Her~~ expression did not seem to me intelligent, though amiable,
& Temporaries get a battered look — that was all I meant.

We are now faced with a shattered boiler, which
has to be replaced, & will take some days, so we may
possibly come to Asheham on this week — as the prospect
of no kitchen fire is depressing in this weather.
I'm afraid it's almost certain we shall be turned
out of Asheham. But if we should come to Asheham, &
Nelly is with you, would you like to have Lottie as well,
for a few days? But this can wait. She'd probably
prefer being with you at Charleston to being alone at
Asheham. & Mrs Geall does all right for us. The
ramifications of the servant question are such that there's
no time for gossip — even if I'd seen anyone, but of course
no one could get here. Alix is taking a house in Gordon
Sq. "so that I can live with James", she told us quite
openly. This is to be on the Brunswick system. But I
daresay it's fallen through; it may represent the poor woman's
death agony. In death she may become the bride of Norton.
A terrible bridal it will be. I feel convinced myself that
it'll ~~be~~ all right about Nelly. Lottie was rather upset last
week, which made the difficulty.

VB

NYPL
HAMILL 12/29/69

1919

10 Feb 1919

Monday.

Dearest,

Here is Nelly at last. She was
perfectly ready to come, as I thought;
& only wishes me to ask you not to
try & persuade her to stay longer than
next Monday: I've said you certainly
won't. Crane is ill. I only
heard this morning. I'm going to
Mrs. Lucas, & hope to get some one in a
few days. If there were a chance of a
permanent, I should take it. Nelly
will explain how Budges friend's father
died, & all else. If you want to
alter plans in any way, let me know
as early as you can. Letters take a
fearful time. I suppose it better

send any one off at once, if I can
find one. I don't think Faith's
much good - so I shouldn't count on
getting Florence.

J B.

NYPL

HAMILL 12/29/69

By the way, I've had another letter from Crane, explaining why she couldn't go, & very polite, so I think she must be quite decent.

Feb 12th

Hogarth.

Wednesday

Dearest,

I have just been rung up by Abbey to say that Crane is recovered & ready to go to you tomorrow. I have told her to catch the 5.20, & that you will send to meet her at Berwick. I suggested that she should wait till Monday, but he says she is quite all right, & wants to take a place at once, so I had to decide at once. If you'd like Nelly to stay till Saturday we're quite ready that she should, & she might help to settle Crane in; but I must confess that we should be rather glad to have her back then. [Leonard is getting rather restive, & it would be a relief if I could count on getting her on Saturday.] I went to Mrs. Lucas, who was hopeless, & said she hadn't had a h.p. for weeks, even for London. Then I went to Mrs. Stuarts agency & got the names of two, but of course neither has answered. I have also been to the Registry here, but the ones that Nelly heard of had been taken. There were various possibilities, however; there ~~was~~ were 2 friends, cook & h.p. wanting to go together; also an h.p. with 5 years character wanting the country: Would you tell me what you'd like me to do supposing I hear of someone, or two permanents or one permanent, in the next few days — or supposing I do get answers? I shant tell any other registries that I'm suited until I hear from you. Abbey says they have no one else in prospect at all. Faith seems to have worked the West End

without maids. They say the only chance is to be there at the moment, & take someone straight off. Well, now there's a breathing space, something permanent might turn up. They all ask either 18/6 or 20/- I hope to hear how you are, but I suppose owing to the strikes, all the posts seem erratic — & I think I'd better not count on your getting this in time, but send you a wire. We had a visit from the two Cockatoos yesterday, in their brightest plumage. Did you realise that Mary thinks of taking a house in Richmond — a kind of villa or lodge, so she said, implying perhaps that Jack is to be confined to Hammersmith while she & the yellow bird perch here. They were most agreeable, & I explained about Gertler, & she pretended never to have heard of it, or at any rate to have dismissed it on the very first hearing. So now we are all amicable, & she is coming to tea with me. I havent much gossip, as we have been so cut off. But I shall now put my bag on my back & pick up crumbs for you in London. NYPL O dear, when shall I ever see you, & my adorable Niece? Paula is a name of character, & so is Susanna; & I see one must consider Bell as part of the colour scheme, though, if she marries a man called Tristram or Trelawney it will be sad to have sacrificed Sidonia, Esther, Vashti & the others. I like a name that has the look of a clear green wave; there's distinct emerald in Sidonia; just as there's the splash of the sea in Vanessa; & a chandelier or lustre in Miriam, with all its eyes. By the way, Leonard wants you to call her Fuchsia; that is his favourite name, & he long ago decided to call his daughter that. I wonder if you've told Nelly about Asheham. I meant to tell you not to — but it doesn't really matter.

Yr B

Let me know as soon as you can about the servants, so as not to miss a chance.

HAMILL 12/29/69